

# San Diego DX Club

## Bulletin

October 2017



**OCTOBER PROGRAM**  
Part 2 of The Deleted Entities Chase  
By Jim McCook, W6YI

### MEETING NOTICE:

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2017  
JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,  
San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988  
SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.  
MEETING, 6:30 P.M.

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## From the Prez . . .

**Mike, NA6MB**

Many things are happening around our casa recently. Not the least of which was a new tower! And we didn't even ask Poway if we could have permission to put it up. That's because it's actually a garden tower that we installed in the backyard. No DX, but hopefully some fresh greens. Gayle decided that she loved the idea when she saw one that her friend had. The garden tower is 6 feet tall and has 24 places for plants to grow hydroponically. The tower has a pump that pumps water from the tub at the bottom keeping the roots damp and feeding them nutrients, hopefully making nice fresh lettuce, kale, broccoli, herbs and other plants. Unfortunately we didn't have a spot that was large enough and level enough so we had to build one. Therefore, the month was mostly taken up in supervising the construction, making design suggestions and repairing the sprinkler system damage that was done while it was being built. We've only had it for a week or so, but we have high hopes of success.

More on the subject of ham radio is the revamping of our station and some changes that I've made to it. We have a shelf behind the radio desk that holds my 5TB of NAS (Network Attached Storage) disk drives, a cable modem, some network switches, our Acurite weather station network hub, UPS (Uninterruptable Power Supply) backup AC power and an Astron 12V 35A power supply. There's also 250 amp hour AGM battery that acts as a backup for 12V when the power goes out and the Astron supply isn't working.

Of course there was a big list of things needing repair or update behind the desk. The first problem was that the self was too small and there was zero clearance on the sides of the Astron (I had to take the old shelf apart to get it out), so I needed to make it wider to have a little bit of ventilation and also add a shelf to contain some of the gear that had been sitting on top. Problem two was a bad battery in the UPS. Number three was cables hanging from connectors. I've found that Anderson Power Poles are intermittent when they have sideways torque on them. Number four was the FET switchover device (instantly switches DC supply from Astron to battery) and load power metering (40A current shunt and voltmeter connected to a Voltage, Amp, Watt and Watt hour meter) were also hanging from their cables. All needed to be tied down and secured. I also added ferrites to the power metering because when I transmit on some HF frequencies everything goes bonkers.



Of course anytime you make a change like that you're going to introduce new problems and that's where I am today. I built a new shelf and got it installed behind the radio desk, mounted the power strips and connected them to the UPS to power the computers when A/C goes down. As I said above, I found out that the Anderson power pole connectors don't like any sideways torque so I had to secure them so they didn't pull sideways due to their own weight. Also decided that I really need to cover up the positive terminal of the AGM battery because if I dropped a cable onto it, we would probably have a spark fest since the shields are all at ground. So I spent most my time working on that and not too much time on the air. It's mostly back together but now my digital modes don't work so must've jarred a cable in the back I have to go back there and fix. I also found out that one of my network drives had failed so I have to decide whether I want to try and recover the data from that or just let it go. This is the case for a good back up system for your files. We have a decent system but not perfect. Back up your files. I hope I can get everything restored and back to normal just in time to leave on vacation.

Hope to see you all at the meeting next week when Jim, W6YI will be talking more about his deleted entities chase.

73 and good DX!

*Mike, NA6MB*

## Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Randy, KQ6RS

### Meeting Minutes, September 27, 2017

At 6:30 pm Mike Binder, NA6MB called the meeting to order. 26 members and three guests were in attendance. Our guests were: Omar Shabsigh, YK1AO, and his son Ghaith Shabsigh, YK1BB, both from Damascus, Syria. Our third guest was Jim Wheeler, AI6KM, who just became a member of our club.



Old business – The August meeting minutes and Treasurer's report were approved.

New business – There was no new business.

From 6:42 to 7:17 we had our roundtable discussion started.

At 7:30 Patrick Bunsold, WA6MHZ, gave a presentation on modifying a Heathkit SB-220 for operation on the 6-meter band.

At 8:40 pm the meeting was adjourned.

### Treasurer's Report

Income for September: \$40 for new membership and renewal.

Expenses for September: \$27.23 for September presenter's dinner.

Statement Balance on 10/8/2017 \$5,825.39

Randy, KQ6RS

# VP Report

**RON, WB1EAZ**



Early October was a time of high anticipation for me as A5A was going to be activated by Zorro (JH1AJT) and crew. A successful contact with A5A would be my #333 country confirmed. A couple of days into the activation, I was trying to get through the pileup and heard "the zulu go ahead" so I dropped my call and 59. The op came back and said you're 59, QSL? Shortly after, the expedition disappeared from 20M SSB. Now I certainly wasn't sure that he was coming back to me, but figured that since they were using ClubLog, I could check the next posting. With the next posting, my call was not there! I then dashed off a quick email to Champ (one of the expedition members), asking what happened to the operation as the 20m frequency that I worked them on was no longer active. For the next few days I tried to work him for "insurance" and, due to poor propagation and family commitments, was not able to hear A5A strongly enough to work until the last day they were there, I threw my call in the pileup and A5A quickly came back with "the 1 go ahead". I quickly replied "WB1EAZ" and heard the station come back with my call to confirm. Imagine my distress when the next posting on Clublog did not show my call. I was quite sure that the SSB contact on 20 m was a good contact. But imagine my surprise when I got an email from Champ. stating that he had corrected the log from the earlier contact, indicating one letter was off. I ran to Clublog and saw that the contact was now posted. Shortly after, Zorro posted the log on LOTW and #333 was confirmed. I have noted a couple of times in the recent past, where the op has clearly come back to my call but fails to record it accurately. Lesson – if you think that you made a contact for a new one, I doesn't hurt to inquire with the QSL manager.

Well, things are moving forward with the Holiday Party . We will have the same meal choices as last year. I will be providing full details around the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. Again, the Holiday Party is set for December 17<sup>th</sup> at our usual location, Fiddlers Green, from noon-4PM. .

## September Program

### The SB-226 6 Meter Kilowatt Amplifier

**By Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ**

This program provided details on many aspects from first conception to final installation of a Homebrew 6 meter Kilowatt amplifier based on the SB-220. Details were provided showing how it was built and tested. Pat went through a fair amount of trial and error with resultant smoke tests before he completed the project: an amplifier with 1000 watts output on 6M. The SB-226, as it is dubbed, is a fully remote controlled amp with an external power supply, unlike any other SB-220 in the world!!! Pat has already constructed one for a club member and has offered to work with others to construct a 6 meter amp from an SB-220

## October Program

### Part 2 of the Deleted Entities Chase

By Jim McCook W6YI

First of all, thanks to Jim who stepped in when our original speaker, Omar, YK1AO was sidelined with a medical problem. Omar, we wish you a speedy recovery.

The presentation is Part 2 of the original Deleted Entities Chase that Jim gave a few years ago for the club, as well as at Visalia last April. I had noted some discussion on the internet regarding the quality of the presentation at Visalia and asked Jim if he could create Part 2. The program will provide a profile of some of the interesting deleted DXCC countries and how they are connected to the present DXCC list. There will be a bit of interesting historical background that many hams may be unaware of and which makes DX operating more fun than simply checking off new ones a need list.

73,

**RON, WB1EAZ**

## SDDXC RESULTS 2017 ARRL DX CW CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
MS HP	ZF1A (ops K6AM, N6MJ)	5,808,057	5,881	331	#1 World
SO HP	K6NA	1,394,172	1,413	331	#1 SW Div, #2 W6
SO LP	KI6RRN	547,788	769	239	#2 SW Div, #2 W6, #16 US/VE
SO 15	W6YA	120,042	494	81	#1 SW Div, #5 US/VE
SA HP	N5ZO	36,582	185	67	#2 SDG
SA LP	W6JBR	41,652	158	89	#3 SDG, #9 SW Div
SA LP	K0XB	24,684	123	68	#4 SDG, #10 SW Div

*John, K6AM*

# From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



## Will Catalonia Become the Next New One?

So, when you have 'em all, what keeps you in the DX game? For me, it's IOTA; but more urgently, it's a new one (ATNO). Every once in a while, I get the chance to chase an entity that will add to the totals I report to the ARRL (and K6AM!).

Think about October 10, 2010 when the Netherlands Antilles ceased to exist as a country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the islands emerged with new statuses: St. Maarten and Curacao became independent countries within the Kingdom and were granted the same status that Aruba attained in 1986. Yes, the new PJ's were a rush.

Reading the news about Catalonia (an incredibly beautiful region surrounding Barcelona), I have been salivating about the opportunity to add a new counter to my totals. IF this happens (and its happening is a BIG IF), I, along with most/all of you will turn our beams to Europe and saturate the airwaves with RF seeking Catalonia QSOs.

This thought led me to consider new entities added to the ARRL DXCC List during the last few years. I remembered that fifteen new countries became independent with the dissolution of the USSR in 1991. Most of these countries declared independence a few months preceding the fall of the Soviet Union in late 1991:

1. Armenia
2. Azerbaijan
3. Belarus
4. Estonia
5. Georgia
6. Kazakhstan
7. Kyrgyzstan
8. Latvia
9. Lithuania
10. Moldova
11. Russia
12. Tajikistan
13. Turkmenistan
14. Ukraine
15. Uzbekistan

## FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Yugoslavia dissolved in the early 1990s into five independent countries:

**June 25, 1991:** [Croatia](#) and Slovenia

**September 8, 1991:** Macedonia (officially The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) declared independence on this date, but wasn't recognized by the United Nations until 1993 and the United States and Russia in February of 1994.

**February 29, 1992:** Bosnia and Herzegovina

**April 17, 1992:** Serbia and Montenegro, also known as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

## OTHER NEW COUNTRIES

Thirteen other countries became independent through a variety of circumstances:

**March 21, 1990:** Namibia became independent of South Africa. Previously, Namibia was known as South West Africa when it was a German territory.

**May 22, 1990:** North and South Yemen merged to form a unified [Yemen](#).

**October 3, 1990:** East Germany and West Germany merged to form a unified [Germany](#) after the fall of the Iron Curtain.

**September 17, 1991:** The Marshall Islands was part of the Trust Territory of Pacific Islands (administered by the United States) and gained independence as a former colony. On this date, [Micronesia](#), previously known as the Caroline Islands, also became independent from the United States.

**January 1, 1993:** The Czech Republic and Slovakia became independent nations when Czechoslovakia dissolved.

**May 25, 1993:** Eritrea was a part of Ethiopia but seceded and gained independence.

**October 1, 1994:** Palau was part of the Trust Territory of Pacific Islands (administered by the United States) and gained independence as a former colony.

**October 1, 1999:** Palestine was added to the DXCC List

**May 20, 2002:** East Timor (Timor-Leste) declared independence from Portugal in 1975 but did not become independent from Indonesia until 2002.

**June 3, 2006:** Montenegro was part of Serbia and Montenegro (also known as Yugoslavia) but gained independence after a referendum. Two days later, Serbia became its own entity after Montenegro split.

**February 17, 2008:** Kosovo unilaterally declared independence from Serbia. The representatives of the Kosovo people unanimously agreed the country would be independent of Serbia despite eleven of the Serbia minority boycotting this.

**July 9, 2011:** [South Sudan](#) peacefully seceded from Sudan following a January 2011 referendum. Sudan itself was the first to recognize South Sudan and did so one day early.

And on and on it goes. I don't worry about running of "New Ones". Politics and geography will keep the DXCC List active and growing long after I am issued my wings and harp (or horns and pitchfork—whatever.)

So maybe its time to start planning a vacation/DXpedition to Catalonia (NOT to be confused with California as in CALEXIT). Catalonia is on the Mediterranean coast, where some of the most notable fruits of the sea in the world are available, so seafood dishes are impressive and vegetables such as tomatoes, red peppers, aubergines, mushrooms and artichokes are everywhere. Its easy to forget that a lot of Catalonia is also made up of mountains and fields where pigs and sheep roam. Thus, the Catalan (and my own) interest in 'May Y Mantagna' ('Sea and Mountain' - think 'Surf n Turf') - the concept of having fish and meat on the same plate.

So my biggest problem will be deciding whether to order white wine or red wine. I'm looking forward to having that problem again.

73,      *Bob, K9RHY*

## Visitors from Damascus

### Gayle, K6GO

The San Diego DX Club had the pleasure of hosting two visitors at our last club meeting. They were Omar Shabsigh, YK1AO and his son, Ghaith Shabsigh, YK1BB. After the meeting I contacted Omar and asked if I could interview him for an article for our newsletter, and he willingly agreed.



The opening question asked of Omar was how he originally got interested in amateur radio. To which Omar replied that when he was in his forties he heard Rasheed, YK1AA calling on his home broadcast radio set and he asked his father about it. His father told him that Rasheed was their neighbor.

Omar was first licensed when he was 46 years old, because he did not have a chance before that. He was a professional communicator with a post graduate degree. He tells that by nature, he was fascinated by electricity and radio since his father bought a RCA broadcast receiver in 1941 when he was just 5 years old. His father wanted to hear the news of World War II.

As for formal education, Omar got a BS in electrical engineering and later a Ph.D. in telecommunication systems. He made a breakthrough in telecommunication systems which was used by NASA, JPL, GPS, the military all over the world.



When asked about the licensing process in Syria, Omar said that at that time there was none! However, after he became the president of the society (TIR at the time) he changed things to become something like the licensing in the US with, for example, mandatory CW knowledge.

When Omar was asked how he motivated his son to want to become an amateur radio operator, his answer was remarkable. Omar was operating and all his children including his wife were encouraged. They are all now radio amateurs. He did this by being a role model and showing them by example.

Since Omar was first licensed in Syria, amateur radio has become more organized and they have a club station which did not exist then.

The name has changed to become the Syrian Scientific Technical Amateur Radio Society (SSTARS). Additionally, in Syria, individual stations are allowed.

When asked what else would he like to tell us about himself or our hobby, he stressed that even in this age of cellular radio, "Let's strive to keep amateur radio alive and active."

We certainly hope that Omar and Ghaith return so that we can all get to know them better.

Gayle, K6GO

## THE SDDXC TOP 10 (EXPANDED VERSION)

By John, K6AM

### CURRENT COUNTRIES CONFIRMED ON PHONE

10/17	10/16	CALL	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG	10/17	10/16	CALL	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	339	372	372	-	11.	11.	WA6MHZ	334	335	345	-
2.	2.	W6YI	339	359	359	-	12.	12.	K5OA	333	352	352	-
3.	3.	N6CW	339	349	349	-	13.	14.	K0XB	325	333	335	-
4.	4.	K6AM	339	349	349	-	14.	15.	WN6K	320	330	339	-
5.	5.	WB1EAZ	339	340	340	-	15.	16.	N6XT	318	325	333	-
6.	6.	K9RHY	338	350	350	-	16.	17.	N6VS	310	315	319	-
7.	7.	W6YOO	338	348	348	-	17.	18.	NA6L	309	309	309	+12
8.	9.	N0RR	336	358	358	-	18.	19.	WB6BFG	301	304	309	-
9.	13.	K6ZH	336	345	345	+9	19.	19.	N6JOJ	297	299	304	-
10.	10.	NN6K	336	339	339	-	20.	-.	NG6Z	290	292	295	NEW

We're lookin' at the top 20 in this category to accommodate the larger number of entries. Things are slowing down as the cycle heads for the bottom. However, our only reporters K6ZH and NA6L both get caught up with nice jumps. There's still plenty of room for more shakeup in the second ten, so you guys get out there and have some fun.

Each month, we will publish a top ten list for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, CW, 10/40M and 80/20M. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

#### CHECK YOUR LOGS

It's time once again to recognize those of you who have made outstanding DX achievements during the year. Please check your logs and let me know if you worked your 329th current country or more than 20 all time new countries during 2017. Send your totals to k6am at arrl dot net

*John, K6AM*